



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT : Yasser Alsafadi et al.
SERIAL NO. : 09/454,348 EXAMINER : Almari Romero Yuan
FILED : December 3, 1999 ART UNIT : 2176
FOR : METHODS FOR INITIATING ACTIVITY IN INTELLIGENT DEVICES
CONNECTED TO AN IN HOME DIGITAL NETWORK USING
EXTENSIBLE MARKUP LANGUAGE (XML) FOR INFORMATION
EXCHANGE AND SYSTEM THEREFOR

APPEAL BRIEF TRANSMITTAL LETTER

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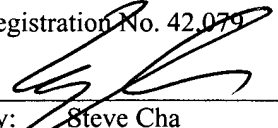
Dear Sir:

Appellants respectfully submit three copies of an Appeal Brief For Appellants that includes an Appendix with the pending claims. The Appeal Brief is now due on June 20, 2005.

Appellants enclose a check in the amount of \$500.00 covering the requisite Government Fee.

Should the Examiner deem that there are any issues which may be best resolved by telephone communication, kindly telephone Applicants undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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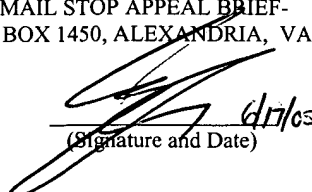
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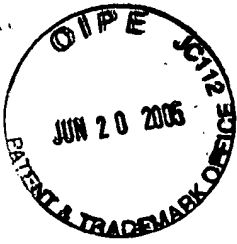
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(Name of Registered Rep.)


(Signature and Date)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

In re the Application

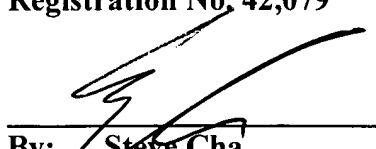
Inventor : Yasser Alsafadi et al.
Application No. : 09/454,348
Filed : December 3, 1999
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HOME DIGITAL NETWORK USING EXTENSIBLE
MARKUP LANGUAGE (XML) FOR INFORMATION
EXCHANGE AND SYSTEM THEREFOR

APPEAL BRIEF

On Appeal from Group Art Unit 2176

Daniel Piotrowski
Registration No. 42,079

Date: June 17, 2005

By: 
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Steve Cha, Reg. No. 44,069
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(Signature and Date)

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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is the assignee of the present application, Philips Electronics North America Corporation, and not the party named in the above caption.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

With regard to identifying by number and filing date all other appeals or interferences known to Appellant which will directly effect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal, Appellant is not aware of any such appeals or interferences.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-29 have been presented for examination. Of these, the claims retaining their original status are: 4, 5, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 19-23. The remaining claims were previously presented. All of claims 1-29 are pending, stand finally rejected, and form the subject matter of the present appeal.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

A Request for Reconsideration was filed after the Final Office Action filed January 24, 2005. No Amendment after the Final Office Action has been filed.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The present invention relates to communications among intelligent information and entertainment digital devices (IDDs) of an in-home digital network (IHDN) (page 1, lines 8-10). Examples of IDDs are video cassette recorders (VCRs),

televisions (TVs) and personal computers (PCs) (page 1, lines 16-24). In accordance with the invention, the IDD's generate and/or receive documents, each one a structured document, and, in particular, a document written in Extensible Markup Language (XML) (page 7, lines 25-27).

An XML document conveys content, and may have an associated Document Type Definition (DTD) which provides formatting rules by which to interpret its associated XML document. On the other hand, some XML documents have no DTD. The DTD, if any, may physically accompany a corresponding XML document or may be referenced at an external location (page 8, line 18 – page 9, line 13).

An IDD receiving a DTD, in accordance with the present invention, verifies that the DTD satisfies a predetermined criterion. For system security and integrity, for example, a check is made as to whether the received DTD appears on an internal list of trusted DTDs, i.e., DTDs that have been processed before or which have been otherwise authorized (page 10, lines 21-29; page 12, lines 19-29).

If the criterion is satisfied, the receiving IDD operates on the data in the corresponding XML document based on the content of that data (page 13, lines 1-15). For example, the data may be split into two categories: the data which, as indicated by a user profile, is relevant to what the user wants displayed on a TV screen; and data which is deemed not to be relevant. The non-relevant data is discarded, and the relevant data is displayed (page 15, lines 25-29; page 16, lines 24-26).

The XML document whose DTD is to be examined may be transferred from one IDD to the DTD-examining IDD without any respective transfer of the DTD (page 12, line 24: "references"). Moreover, the XML document may have been

transferred responsive to a command from the DTD-examining IDD (page 4, line 22: “responsive”).

If, upon examination, the DTD satisfies the predetermined criterion, the data of the respective XML document is parsed as described above (page 13, lines 1-15). Selected portions of the parsed data may be operated on. For example, the parsed data may be translated to a different format, such as by virtual reality modeling language (VRML) interpretation (page 13, lines 5-6). Additionally or alternatively, the parsed data may be reformatted for on-screen display (page 13, lines 12-13).

Finally, each IDD may comprise corresponding processors each associated with respective DTDs, such that a received XML document is processed only by those processors matching the DTD of the XML document. The number of processors may vary by IDD (page 5, lines 4-18).

VI. GROUNDS FOR REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The grounds for rejection submitted for review by the Board are:

1. whether rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) of claims 1, 6, 11, 13-14 and 24-29 based on U.S. Patent No. 6,226,675 to Meltzer et al. (“Meltzer”) is invalid;
2. whether rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12 as unpatentable over Meltzer in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,519,597 to Cheng et al. (“Cheng”) is invalid;
3. whether rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of claim 15 as unpatentable over Meltzer in view of International Patent Application No. WO 99/57837 to Humpleman et al. (“Humpleman”) is invalid;

4. whether rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of claims 16 and 17 as unpatentable over Meltzer in view of Humpleman and Cheng is invalid; and

5. whether rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of claims 18-23 as unpatentable over Meltzer in view of Humpleman and Cheng is invalid.

VII. ARGUMENT

FIRST GROUND OF REJECTION

Rejection of claims 1, 27 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) based on Meltzer

Claim 1 recites:

A method of operating an intelligent digital device (IDD) receiving an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) document containing data and respective Document Type Definition (DTD) describing content of said data, comprising:

verifying that a received DTD satisfies a predetermined criterion; and,
if said criterion is satisfied, operating on said data based on said content.

Meltzer fails to disclose or suggest, “verifying that a received DTD satisfies a predetermined criterion.”

The latest Advisory Action, dated March 28, 2005, merely states that the latest final Office Action, dated January 24, 2005, (hereinafter “Office Action”) is “fully responsive to the applicant’s arguments.” Accordingly, there appears no basis for making any further mention of the Advisory Action in the instant appeal brief.

Item 5 of the Office Action cites to lines 38-46 of column 23 in Meltzer.

In referring to this passage from Meltzer, item 5 states, starting on the first line of page 3, “the parser identifies the document type (DTD).”

Presumably, the Office Action is referring to the fact that the Meltzer document parser 301 “identifies the document type” (col. 23, line 41) of “an incoming document” (col. 23, lines 38-39). As a preliminary step, the incoming document has been received at the network interface 300 and passed on to the document parser 301 (col. 23, lines 38-39; col. 21, lines 41-52).

The Office Action apparently fails to specify what it deems to correspond to the claim 1 feature of “verifying that a received DTD satisfies a predetermined criterion.”

Presumably, the Office Action suggests that the Meltzer parser 301 identifying of document type for the incoming document corresponds to this feature of claim 1.

A DTD (document type definition) is a device used in XML to define the statements in an XML document.

The DTD may reside alongside or within the XML document it defines, or the DTD may reside on a separate storage device. In the latter case, the XML document contains an external reference or “address” to the DTD.

With regard to Meltzer, the “DTD” (col. 23, line 43) for the “incoming document” (col. 23, lines 38-39) is stored within the business interface definition (“BID”)(col. 23, line 43). The BID does not accompany the incoming document (col. 23, lines 27-28; col. 21, lines 40-52).

Thus, the incoming document does not contain its DTD or bring the DTD along with it; instead, the incoming document has an external reference or “address” to the DTD.

Meltzer provides examples of BIDs (col. 11, line 26) and the DTDs they contain.

One example of a BID is a market participant BID. The DTD it contains extends from col. 11, line 64 to col. 14, line 56.

A second example of a BID is a service description BID. The DTD it contains extends from col. 15, line 16 to col. 18, line 2.

The DTD within the BID is “received” when the BID is “received.” In particular, the BID originates from the participant module 303 (col. 21, lines 52-54; col. 23, lines 27-28), and is automatically maintained current at the parser 301 (col. 22, lines 57-61: “Thus, as the business interface definition is modified our updated . . . the translator 302 and the parser 301 are automatically kept up to date”).

Firstly, therefore, it is unclear to the present applicants how Meltzer can be construed as “verifying” anything with respect to a “received DTD.”

The “parser identifies the document type (401) in response to the business interface definition” (col. 23, lines 41-42). Thus, the parser 301 goes to the location defined by the external reference within the incoming document and uses the DTD at that location, external to the document, to parse the document.

It is unclear to the present applicants how this action by the parser involves verification. Meltzer fails to disclose or suggest any verification.

Secondly, since Meltzer is using the incoming document’s external reference to its DTD to refer to the DTD in parsing the document, it is unclear what the Office Action regards in Meltzer to be a “criterion.”

Thirdly, in view of the Office Action's rejection of dependent claim 24 under the same ground, reference to claim 24 does not seem to allay confusion as to what the Office Action means by a "received DTD."

More particularly, and with reference to the above analysis, it is unclear how it properly can be said that Meltzer, in regard to its parser 301 or any other part of Meltzer, discloses, "verifying that a received DTD satisfies a predetermined criterion; and, if said criterion is satisfied, operating on said data based on said content."

For at least the above reasons, Meltzer fails to anticipate the present invention as recited in claim 1.

Moreover, the applicants fail to see any motivation in Meltzer, or in what was generally known to those of ordinary skill in the art, to modify Meltzer to more resemble claim 1.

Claims 27 and 29 are apparatus and software claims, respectively, that are based on method claim 1. Accordingly, claims 27 and 29 are deemed not anticipated by Meltzer for at least the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Rejection of claims 6, 26 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) based on Meltzer

Claim 6 is separately patentable from claim 1, because claim 6 is deemed patentable based on one of the three arguments set forth above with regard to claim 1.

As in the case of claim 1, claim 6 recites the word "criterion." It is unclear how the Office Action deems Meltzer to disclose "when the respective DTD for the generated XML document satisfies a predetermined criterion, operating on said data"

For at least this reason, Meltzer fails to anticipate the present invention as recited in claim 6.

Claim 26 depends from claim 6, and is likewise not anticipated by Meltzer at least due to its dependency.

Claim 28 recites the same above-quoted aspect as claim 6, and is likewise regarded as patentable over Meltzer for at least the same reason set forth above with regard to claim 6.

Rejection of claims 11, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) based on Meltzer

Claim 11 depends from claim 6, and is deemed not anticipated at least due to its dependency. In addition, however, claim 11 is separately patentable from claims 1 and 6 according to arguments not applied to claim 1 or 6.

Claim 11 recites:

. . . when the respective DTD for the generated XML document satisfies a predetermined criterion, operating on said data contained in the XML document at the second IDD based on said content, wherein:
the transmitting step comprises transmitting the generated XML document from the first IDD to the second IDD and a third IDD;
the operating step comprises operating on the data contained in the XML document at the second IDD when the respective DTD for the generated XML document satisfies a first predetermined criterion, and
the method further comprises the step of operating on the data contained in the XML document at the third IDD when the respective DTD for the generated XML document satisfies a second predetermined criterion.

Meltzer fails to disclose, “when the respective DTD for the generated XML document satisfies a predetermined criterion, operating on said data,” and is deemed not to anticipate claim 11 at least for this reason.

In addition, what the applicants assume the Office Action relies upon as its version of the “predetermined criterion” of Meltzer appears to be inconsistent with aspects particular to claim 11.

Presumably, based on item 5 of the Office Action, the Office Action regards the parser 301 identification of the document type of the incoming document “in response to the BID” as amounting to satisfaction by “the respective DTD” of a “predetermined criterion.”

Claim 11 refers, in particular, to “the respective DTD for the generated XML document satisfies a first predetermined criterion, and . . . the respective DTD for the generated XML document satisfies a second predetermined criterion . . .”

Thus, the Office Action not only finds in Meltzer a criterion, but a “first criterion” and a “second criterion.”

It is, however, unclear to the applicants what the Office Action sees in Meltzer as corresponding to a “first criterion” and a “second criterion.”

In view of the above, it is unclear how Meltzer can fairly be said to disclose:

. . . when the respective DTD for the generated XML document. . . wherein . . . operating . . . at the second IDD when the respective DTD for the generated XML document satisfies a first predetermined criterion, and the method further comprises the step of operating . . . at the third IDD when the respective DTD for the generated XML document satisfies a second predetermined criterion.

For at least the above reasons, Meltzer fails to anticipate the present invention as recited in claim 11.

Claims 13 and 14 depend from claim 11, and are deemed patentable over Meltzer at least due to their dependency.

Rejection of claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) based on Meltzer

Claim 24 depends from claim 1, and is patentable over Meltzer for at least the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

In addition, claim 24 recites, “said received DTD is contained along with said data in said XML document upon reception of said DTD that is to be subject to said verifying.”

As discussed in connection with claim 1, the DTD for the incoming document to the parser 301 originates from the participant module 303 (col. 21, lines 52-54; col. 23, lined 27-28), and is automatically maintained current at the parser 301 (col. 22, lines 57-61: “Thus, as the business interface definition is modified our updated . . . the translator 302 and the parser 301 are automatically kept up to date”).

Thus, the DTD is received whenever it is updated.

Moreover, the arriving DTD is contained within a BID.

In particular, the Meltzer DTD is received from the participant module 303, whereas the incoming document is received from the network interface 300 (col. 21, lines 40-52).

It follows that neither the received Meltzer DTD, nor its containing BID, “. . . is contained along with said data in said XML document upon reception of said DTD that is to be subject to said verifying.”

For this reason too, Meltzer fails to anticipate the present invention as recited in claim 24.

Rejection of claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) based on Meltzer

Claim 25 depends from claim 24 and is therefore deemed to be patentable over Meltzer at least due to its dependency.

Although the applicants do not believe Meltzer discloses or suggests “verifying that a received DTD satisfies a predetermined criterion” no matter when a Meltzer DTD is received, and regardless of who receives and from whom, claim 25 is intended to account for other possible interpretations of what the Office Action means by the “received DTD.”

For at least the above reasons, claim 25 distinguishes patentably over Meltzer.

SECOND GROUND OF REJECTION

Rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Meltzer in view of Cheng

Cheng cannot make up for the deficiencies in Meltzer.

Item 7 of the Office Action cites a number of passages in Cheng, and suggests that various shortcomings of Meltzer are met. A review of the passages shows that there is no basis for this suggestion. Moreover, the deficiencies in Meltzer are not addressed. The cited passages are addressed below one-by-one.

In one of the Cheng passages cited by the Office Action, lines 44-61 of column 9, Cheng, at best, merely discloses checking that a received DTD satisfies a predetermined criterion, i.e., whether the DTD already exists in the reference table. If the DTD is not in the table, the DTD is then added. If, on the other hand, the DTD is already in the table, there is no need to add the DTD to the table.

The Meltzer participant node (col. 21, line 41), as mentioned above in connection with claim 1, receives a DTD when the DTD copy resident on the participant module 303 is updated (col. 22, lines 57-61: “Thus, as the business interface definition is modified our updated . . . the translator 302 and the parser 301 are automatically kept up to date”).

Thus, the arriving DTD in Meltzer is an updated DTD and therefore needs to be added to the participant node.

Since the arriving DTD is an update that needs to be added to the Meltzer participant node, it is unclear by what motivation one would have modified Meltzer, in view of Cheng, to check whether the updated DTD already exists in a Cheng reference table residing on the Meltzer participant node. Such a check would not seem to make sense.

In fact, even assuming that the incoming document is of unexpected type, so that the Meltzer participant node needs to request that the participant module 303 send it the BID containing the DTD, this would occur only if the DTD is not already in the Cheng table and there presumably therefore exists no need for any Cheng checking on behalf of the “received DTD” of claim 1.

Secondly, since Cheng either adds the incoming DTD to the table or finds that it already has the DTD in the table, a hypothetical Meltzer/Cheng combination is able to parse an incoming Meltzer document according to the DTD regardless of whether what the Office Action characterizes as a “predetermined criterion” is satisfied.

It is thus unclear in what sense the combination proposed by the Office Action can properly be said to disclose, suggest or feature, “if said criterion is satisfied, operating on . . .”

Thirdly, there is not the slightest hint from the Office Action as to its reasoning in characterizing the Cheng table checking as “verifying.”

Fourthly, considering claim 2, for example, it refers to “trusted DTDs.”

By contrast, Cheng either a) adds an incoming DTD to the table if it is not in the table already; or b) if the DTD is already in the table, refrains from adding the incoming DTD to the table.

Cheng apparently fails to disclose or suggest any concept of performing a security function. Nor does Meltzer seem to relate in any way to the concept of security.

It is accordingly unclear in what sense the Office Action considers, quoting from the top of page 5 of the Office Action, “the predetermined criterion is equality between the name of the received DTD and the name of the trusted DTD.”

According to the first sentence on page 5 of the Office Action, the other Cheng passages cited (mentioned at the top of the present analysis section) are likewise offered for the proposition that Cheng purportedly shows the “criterion” and the “trusted DTDs” of the present claim 2.

A review of these other Cheng passages, however, apparently unearths nothing that would serve to further the line of reasoning offered by the Office Action.

The first passage, lines 1-7 of column 2, seemingly is cited to suggest the overall worthiness of the Cheng approach, but bears no hint of how Cheng is purportedly

applied to Meltzer in manner that might serve to further the line of reasoning taken by the Office Action.

The second passage, lines 44-61 of column 9, has been traversed in the analysis herein above.

The third passage, lines 37-58 of column 13, seems to offer no insight on how to overcome the fourth bases set forth above for traversing the instant ground of rejection applied to claim 2.

The fourth passage, lines 29-45 apparently suffer from the same irrelevancy to the matter at hand characteristic of the third passage.

For at least all of the above reasons, claim 2 distinguishes patentably over the applied references.

Rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Meltzer in view of Cheng

As set forth in the previous section, it is unclear how Cheng can be applied to further Meltzer in accordance with the line of argument pursued by the Office Action.

Claim 7 depends from claim 6, and therefore adopts the arguments applied above with regard to claim 6.

In addition, like claim 2, claim 7 refers to “trusted DTDs.”

The fourth argument set forth above in support of claim 2 likewise therefore applies to claim 7.

For at least these reasons, the applied references fail to render obvious the present invention as recited in claim 7.

Rejection of claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Meltzer in view of Cheng

Claims 3-5 depend from claim 1, and the purported contribution of Cheng to the combination the Office Action proposes is traversed above. Accordingly, the same analysis set forth above with respect to claim 1, and the first three arguments applied to claim 2, apply to claims 3-5.

For at least these reasons, Meltzer/Cheng fails to render obvious the present invention as recited in claim 3.

Claims 4 and 5 are deemed patentable over Meltzer/Cheng at least due to their dependency from claim 3.

Rejection of claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Meltzer in view of Cheng

Claims 8-10 depend from claim 6, and the purported contribution of Cheng to the combination the Office Action proposes is traversed above. Accordingly, the same analysis set forth above with respect to claim 7, and the first three arguments applied to claim 2, apply to claims 8-10.

For at least these reasons, Meltzer/Cheng fails to render obvious the present invention as recited in claim 8.

Claims 9 and 10 are deemed patentable over Meltzer/Cheng at least due to their dependency from claim 8.

Rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Meltzer in view of Cheng

Claims 12 depends from claim 11, and the purported contribution of Cheng to the combination the Office Action proposes is traversed above. Accordingly, the same

analysis set forth above with respect to claim 11, and the first three arguments applied to claim 2, apply to claim 12.

For at least these reasons, Meltzer/Cheng fails to render obvious the present invention as recited in claim 12.

THIRD GROUND OF REJECTION

Rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Meltzer in view of Humpleman

Claim 15 recites, “when said respective DTD satisfies a predetermined criterion, parsing said data . . .”

As discussed above in connection to claim 1, Meltzer fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 15.

The Examiner has already acknowledged that Humpleman fails to compensate for this shortcoming in Meltzer. This acknowledgment is mentioned in the next-to-last paragraph on page 8 of the applicants’ prior appeal brief of February 17, 2004. The Examiner makes the acknowledgment in page 10 of item 8 in the Office Action dated September 23, 2003.

For at least these reasons, the proposed combination of prior art references fails to render obvious the invention as recited in claim 15.

FOURTH GROUND OF REJECTION

Rejection of claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Meltzer in view of Humpleman and Cheng.

Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 15.

Claims 16 and 17 refer not only to a “predetermined criterion,” but to “trusted DTDs.”

As discussed above in connection with claims 2 and 15, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest, alone or in combination, the “predetermined criterion” of claims 16 and 17.

Like Meltzer and Cheng, Humpleman also fails to disclose or suggest any concerns with the security measures for incoming documents. Accordingly, the above discussion regarding “trusted DTDs” in connection with claim 2 applies to claims 16 and 17.

For the above reasons, the combination of references proposed by the Office Action fails to render obvious the present invention as recited in claim 16, and as recited in claim 17.

FIFTH GROUND OF REJECTION

Rejection of claims 18-20, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Meltzer in view of Humpleman and Cheng.

Item 15 of the Office Action cites passages in Meltzer purportedly to support the proposition that Meltzer discloses limitations of claim 18, namely:

“a second IDD stores N XML processors associated with N named DTDs;
and

a third IDD stores M XML processors associated with M named DTDs.”

The passages cited by the Office Action do not, however, support the proposition apparently being advanced by the Office Action that Meltzer discloses or suggests the above-quoted limitations of claim 18. Neither do either of the other two references being applied in the instant rejection of claim 18.

The instant applicants see no way of combining the three references that could properly be said to render claim 18 obvious.

Rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Meltzer in view of Humpleman and Cheng.

Claim 21 depends from claim 18 and is deemed patentable over the applied references at least due to its dependency.

In addition, claim 21 is separately patentable since it recites, “trusted DTDs.”

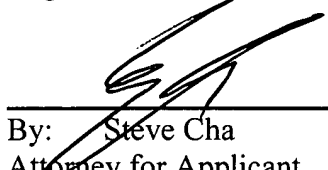
As discussed above in connection to claims 16 and 17, the cited references fail, alone or in combination, to render obvious the present invention as recited in claim 21 by virtue of its recitation of “trusted DTDs.”

For at least both of the above reasons, claim 21 is deemed to be patentable over the combination of references proposed by the Office Action.

In view of the above analysis, it is respectfully submitted that the referenced teachings, whether taken individually or in combination, fail to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter of any of the present claims. Therefore, reversal of all outstanding grounds of rejection is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Piotrowski
Registration No. 42,079


By: Steve Cha
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Date: June 17, 2005

VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (Previously Presented) A method of operating an intelligent digital device (IDD) receiving an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) document containing data and respective Document Type Definition (DTD) describing content of said data, comprising:
verifying that a received DTD satisfies a predetermined criterion; and,
if said criterion is satisfied, operating on said data based on said content.
2. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the IDD maintains a list of trusted DTDs and wherein the predetermined criterion is equality between the name of the received DTD and the name of a trusted DTD.
3. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the predetermined criterion comprises the inclusion of the name of a program residing on the IDD.
4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the program comprises an XML-enabled program.
5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the program comprises an XML parser.
6. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a system including a digital network interconnected intelligent digital devices (IDDs) generating and receiving eXtensible Markup Language (XML) documents containing data and respective Document Type Definitions (DTDs) describing content of said data, comprising:
transmitting a generated XML document from a first IDD to a second IDD; and
when the respective DTD for the generated XML document satisfies a predetermined criterion, operating on said data contained in the XML document at the second IDD based on said content.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the second IDD maintains a list of trusted DTDs and wherein the predetermined criterion is equality between the name of the respective DTD and the name of a trusted DTD.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the predetermined criterion comprises the inclusion of the name of a program residing on the second IDD.

9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the program comprises an XML-enabled program.

10. (Original) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the program comprises an XML processor.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 6, wherein:
the transmitting step comprises transmitting the generated XML document from the first IDD to the second IDD and a third IDD;
the operating step comprises operating on the data contained in the XML document at the second IDD when the respective DTD for the generated XML document satisfies a first predetermined criterion, and
the method further comprises the step of operating on the data contained in the XML document at the third IDD when the respective DTD for the generated XML document satisfies a second predetermined criterion.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 11, wherein:
the second IDD maintains a first list of trusted DTDs;
the third IDD maintains a second list of trusted DTDs;
the first predetermined criterion is equality between the name of the respective DTD and the name of a trusted DTD on the first list; and
the second predetermined criterion is equality between the name of the respective DTD and the name of a trusted DTD on the second list.

13. (Original) The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the XML document and the respective DTD are transmitted to the second and third IDD.

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the respective DTD is stored on at least one of the second and third IDDs.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a system including a digital network of interconnected intelligent digital devices (IDDs) generating and receiving eXtensible Markup Language (XML) documents containing information and respective Document Type Definitions (DTDs), the DTDs respectively describing content of said information, comprising the steps of:

- (a) generating an XML document containing data and a reference to a respective DTD at a first IDD responsive to a command from a second IDD;
- (b) transmitting the XML document from the first to the second IDD;
- (c) when said respective DTD satisfies a predetermined criterion, parsing said data in accordance with a format described in said respective DTD to thereby generate parsed data; and
- (d) operating on the parsed data.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein:
the second IDD stores a list of trusted DTDs associated with respective XML processors;

the predetermined criterion is coincidence between the respective DTD and a trusted DTD on the list; and

the parsing and the operating steps are performed using the one of the XML processors corresponding to the respective DTD.

17. (Original) The method as recited in claim 16, wherein:
the second IDD stores a plurality of DTDs and associated XML processors;
the XML document references the respective DTD; and

the parsing and the operating steps are performed using the one of the XML processors corresponding to the respective DTD.

18. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:
a plurality of intelligent digital devices (IDDs) interconnected to one another, each of the IDD being capable of one of generating and receiving an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) document containing data and referencing a document type definition (DTD); wherein:

a first IDD generates the XML document responsive to a command received over an in-house digital network (IHDN);

a second IDD stores N XML processors associated with N named DTDs;

a third IDD stores M XML processors associated with M named DTDs;

the second IDD processes the XML document using one of the N XML processors when the respective DTD corresponds to one of the N named DTDs;

the third IDD processes the XML document using one of the M XML processors when the respective DTD corresponds to one of the M named DTDs; and

N and M are both positive integers.

19. (Original) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein at least one of the N named DTDs and at least one of the M named DTDs are identical to the respective DTD, and wherein the one of the N XML processors corresponding to the respective DTD is different than the one of the M XML processors corresponding to the respective DTD.

20. (Original) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein the second IDD stores the N named DTDs, and wherein the third IDD stores the M named DTDs.

21. (Original) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein the second and third IDDs store lists of trusted DTDs including the associated N and M named DTDs, and wherein the first IDD generates the XML document and the respective DTD responsive to the command received over the IHDN.

22. (Original) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein said IDD's are interconnected to one another by an in home digital network (IHDN).

23. (Original) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein said IDD's are interconnected to one another via the internet.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said received DTD is contained along with said data in said XML document upon reception of said DTD that is to be subject to said verifying.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said verifying is performed in response to said reception.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, comprising the steps of:
receiving the transmitted, generated XML document;
determining, upon reception of said transmitted, generated XML document, whether said criterion is satisfied; and
if said determining determines that said criterion is satisfied, performing said operating.

27. (Previously Presented) An intelligent digital device (IDD) for receiving an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) document containing data and a respective Document Type Definition (DTD) describing content of said data, said IDD comprising:
means for verifying that a received DTD satisfies a predetermined criterion; and
means for, if said criterion is satisfied, operating on said data based on said content.

28. (Previously Presented) A digital network of interconnected intelligent digital devices (IDD's) generating and receiving eXtensible Markup Language (XML) documents containing data and respective Document Type Definitions (DTD's) describing content of said data, said network comprising:

first and second IDD;

means for transmitting a generated XML document from the first IDD to the second IDD; and

means for, when the respective DTD for the generated XML document satisfies a predetermined criterion, operating on said data contained in the XML document at the second IDD based on said content.

29. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable medium in which is stored a computer program for operating an intelligent digital device (IDD) for receiving an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) document containing data and a respective Document Type Definition (DTD) describing content of said data, said program comprising:

instructions for verifying that a received DTD satisfies a predetermined criterion; and,

instructions for, if said criterion is satisfied, operating on said data based on said content.